

**WEST SIDE IS A WELCOMING CHURCH,
ROOTED DEEPLY IN CHRIST,
INVITING ALL TO CONNECT,
GROW AND SERVE.**

A Story Worth Telling

“Want to help serve lunch at Eva’s Village today?” That’s the text Greg Babunovic received from his father, Mark, on a December morning. “I thought it would be a much better use of my time than getting keys made at Home Depot,” joked Greg, a graduate student at Harvard who was back home in New Jersey for winter break. So off they went, carpooling to Paterson with a group of West Siders.

His dad has been volunteering at Eva’s since September of 2015, but Greg was a first-timer, and he was concerned about his lack of experience. “I quickly learned that it’s very easy to be useful even if you don’t know what you’re doing,” said Greg. “It’s run like a factory, but in the very best way. Everyone is assigned a job and you stick to it.” Greg’s job was pouring coffee. “Everyone was smiling and holding up their cups, happy to get their coffee. I really enjoyed the snippets of conversation I had with people. They were very pleasant and not hesitant at all about talking.”

The “guest-friendly” nature of Eva’s initially drew the elder Babunovic to the program. “It doesn’t feel like a soup kitchen,” noted Mark. “It’s a welcoming place. People are served at tables. They maintain the dignity of their guests. I really appreciate that.” He also appreciates getting to know the “regulars.” One that stands out is a grandmother from Peru “who is all of four-foot eight and doesn’t speak a word of English. She gathers up the extras—the pieces of bread—and takes them home for her grandchildren. She’s a wonderful lady. She lights up when she sees me, and we both enjoy ‘talking’ to one another.”

“To be honest,” Mark continued, “as you rub shoulders with people who have next to nothing, you feel your own problems and concerns melt away for a couple of hours...”

West Siders serve lunch at Eva’s Village on Fridays and weekends throughout the year. Interested in volunteering? Please see page 2. Pictured above are the Deacons at Eva’s.



Is This Your First Time Visiting West Side?

Welcome! We're so glad you're here. We look forward to helping you connect with others, grow more deeply in your faith and enrich your own life by serving others. Wherever you are on life's journey, there's a place for you at West Side.

Please stop by the visitor table located just inside the front doors, fill out a Let's Connect card and pick up a visitor bag. And please stay after the service to enjoy coffee/tea and refreshments and meet the pastors and members.

Have a question? Our staff is here to help:

Rev. Marc Oehler, pastor, moehler@westside.org

Rev. Penny Hogan, associate pastor, phogan@westside.org

Rev. Liz Junod, pastoral associate, ljunod@westside.org

Deborah Holden-Holloway, minister of music, dholden-holloway@westside.org

Pat McGlade, R.N., faith community nurse, pmcglade@westside.org

Esmé Elkins, children's ministry coordinator, eelkins@westside.org

Anne Lee, executive administrative assistant, alee@westside.org

Growing Through Serving

Eva's Village has been feeding the hungry since 1982 and now serves breakfast and lunch to as many as 400 people a day. West Siders volunteer at Eva's on Fridays and weekends throughout the year. We meet in the West Side parking lot at 10:30 am, carpool to Paterson and return by 1:30 pm. If you'd like to sign up for a Friday slot, please reach out to Mark Babunovic (babunovic@yahoo.com). For weekends, please contact Craig Matthews (craiggmattthews@aol.com). Craig could use a few more volunteers on Saturday, **January 12!**

New Sermon Series: I called YOU!

On January 13, we'll begin a five-week sermon series entitled "I Called YOU!" We'll explore what it means to trust God's call to be who we are, to shine, to lead, to speak and to go where God sends us. Throughout the five weeks, we'll ponder the mystery of God's call, a mystery Thomas Merton touches upon with these words: "God calls us to become who we most eternally are." Is it possible God knows you better than you know yourself? Is it possible

God's call in your life is not only a gift to others, but also a gift to yourself? Is it possible that trusting God with your life is the safest and surest way to find your way home to your True Self? Join us as we begin the new year with big questions! —*Pastor Marc Oehler*



It's Time to Do-Si-Do!

Break out your plaid shirt, jeans and cowboy boots and get ready to do-si-do at our Family Square Dance and Ice Cream Social on Saturday, **February 2** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Bring the children (all ages!) along for a night of fun, dancing and dessert. Come out and learn the steps from a professional square dance caller—or just sit back and listen to the music. The only requirement is to have a good time! Please RSVP to Pastor Penny (phogan@westside.org).



Paul Van Ness and Friends

Noted local pianist and member Paul Van Ness will perform at West Side on Sunday, **January 20** at 3:00 pm as part of the West Side Concert Series. He'll be joined by colleagues Melissa Macy and Rachel Crozier (violin), Mitsuru Kubo Hunter (viola), SinHwa Lee (cello) and Apryl Helder (mezzo soprano) in a recital devoted to the music of Johannes Brahms. Van Ness holds both Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees in Performance from the Eastman School of Music, and studied further in Germany and France. Most recently, he spent 30 years as professor in piano at California State University, Los Angeles. Admission, as always, is free. Come early...and bring your friends.

Spots Available for ASP Youth Mission Trip

There's still time for high school youth to sign up for the Appalachia Service Project trip to Charleston, WV, taking place **July 27-August 3, 2019**. The cost of the trip is \$450, and a non-refundable \$150 deposit is due to Pastor Penny ASAP. We hope your high schooler will consider joining his/her peers for this life-changing experience helping low-income families in Kanawha County, where the per capita income is \$28,030. To find out more, please get in touch with Pastor Penny (phogan@westside.org).

Third Thursday...for the Guys

Come in from the cold and join the men of West Side for great food, conversation and fellowship on **January 17** at 7:30 pm at Bill McCord's home in Ridgewood. Interested in joining the fun? Please RSVP by January 14 to Anne Lee (alee@westside.org). Mark your calendar for February 21, when the guys will be heading to the Prudential Center for a New Jersey Devils game, and March 21 at Craig Matthews' home.

Youth Happenings

High School BARN resumes **TODAY** at 7:00 pm. Drop off your teen at the Barn for 90 minutes of fun, fellowship, faith exploration and good old-fashioned hanging out. For more information about our youth program, please reach out to Pastor Penny (phogan@westside.org).

Please visit www.westside.org for more information about our programs.

TODAY AT WEST SIDE

8:00 am—Little Lambs Child Care - Room 202	11:15 am—Sermon Talk Back - Chapel
8:15 am— Chapel Worship - Chapel	11:15 am—Prayer Circle - Chapel
9:00 am— Contemporary Worship - DePhillips Hall	11:30 am—Health Ministry Reimagination Team Meeting - Conference Room
9:00 am—Sunday School - Rooms 206, 306, 311, 312 and Serenity Room	11:30 am—Town Hall Meeting - DePhillips Hall
9:45 am—Centering Prayer - West Side Room	6:00 pm—Music Ministry Task Force Meeting - Conference Room
10:15 am— Traditional Worship - Sanctuary	
10:15 am—Sunday School - Rooms 206, 306, 311, 312 and Serenity Room	

COMING UP AT WEST SIDE

- January 12 - Session and Deacons Retreat** in DePhillips Hall at 8:30 am
- January 13 - Emotionally Healthy Relationships** course in DePhillips Hall at 4:00 pm
- January 17 - Third Thursday Men's Group** at Bill McCord's home at 7:30 pm
- January 20 - Paul Van Ness and Friends Concert** in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm
- January 21 - Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- January 27 - Parlance Chamber Concert** in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm
- February 1 - First Friday Women's Group** at Lindsay Koskinen's home at 7:00 pm
- February 2 - Family Square Dance** in DePhillips Hall at 6:30 pm
- February 3 - Annual Meeting and Brunch** in DePhillips Hall at 11:15 am
- February 16 - New York Classical Players Concert** in the Sanctuary at 8:00 pm
- February 21 - Third Thursday New Jersey Devils Game** at Prudential Center at 7:00 pm
- February 24 - Juilliard Chamber Orchestra Concert** in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm
- March 2 - New Jersey Choral Concert** in the Sanctuary at 3:00 and 7:30 pm